

IN THE CLAIM:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for testing a respirator product, comprising:

a fan;

a suction conduit connected to said fan;

a pressure conduit connected to said fan;

a line section to the respirator product

a reversing valve connecting said fan to one of said pressure conduit and said suction conduit in terms of flow to said respirator product via said to said line section switched in a predetermined time sequence and connecting the other of said pressure conduit and said suction conduit to the environment via an open position, said reversing valve including a valve housing with a valve element swinging in a rotatably movable manner therein between two end positions, wherein said valve housing has two said valve inlets connected to said suction conduit and to said pressure conduit, a valve outlet leading to said respirator product, said valve element has a flow channel that connects one of said valve inlets to said valve outlet as well as one of said valve inlets to a ventilation channel;

a throttling element located between said fan and said respirator product, said throttling element having a cross-sectional area that can be varied;

a control unit setting said cross sectional area to a plurality of set points between fully opened and fully closed according to a preset manipulated variable, the variable cross-sectional area of said throttling element being formed by the degree of overlap between the cross-sectional area of one of said valve inlets with the cross-sectional area of said flow channel

wherein said valve element receives as the manipulated variable an angle of rotation position in relation to said valve housing.

2 - 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said valve element is actuated by a motor.

5. (Original) A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein the preset manipulated variable has a signal curve alternately rising proportionally or declining proportionally.

6 - 8 (Canceled) .

9. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 13, wherein said valve comprises a reversing valve with a valve housing with two valve inlets connected selectively to said suction conduit and to said pressure conduit, and having a valve outlet leading to the breathing mask, said reversing valve including a valve element having a flow channel that connects one of said valve inlets to said valve outlet as well as one of said valve inlets to a ventilation channel, said valve element flow channel being rotatably movable between said inlets.

10. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 9, wherein:

said throttling element varies said cross-sectional area corresponding to a manipulated variable;

5 said variable cross-sectional area occurs based on a degree of overlap between the cross-sectional area of one of said valve inlets with the cross-sectional area of said flow channel wherein said valve element receives as the manipulated variable an angle of rotation position in relation to said valve housing .

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 9, wherein the preset manipulated variable has a signal curve alternately rising proportionally or declining proportionally.

13. (Currently Amended) A testing system for a breathing mask, the system comprising:

a fan having a suction conduit and a pressure conduit;

5 a line section having a test end connected to the breathing mask, said line section also having a valve end;

a valve selectively connecting a flow of one of said pressure conduit and said suction conduit to said valve end of said line section;

10 a throttling element arranged between said fan and said test end of said line section,  
said throttling element having a variable cross-sectional area to vary a flow of gas between  
said fan and said test end of said line section;

a testing head connected to said test end of said line section, said testing head being  
connectable to the breathing mask for detecting leakage.

14. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 13, further comprising:  
a control unit controlling said throttling element to one of increase and decrease the  
flow of gas to the test end over a period substantially similar to a breathing pattern of a user  
of the breathing mask.

15. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 14, wherein:  
said control unit controls said throttling element to vary said one of said increase and  
decrease in the flow of gas according to a plurality of different pressure curves.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 13, wherein:  
said throttling element is arranged in said valve.

18. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 17, wherein:

said valve has a valve element defining a flow channel, said valve element being rotatable to selectively connect said flow channel to said one of said pressure conduit and said suction conduit, said valve element also being rotatable to vary a cross section of the flow through said valve and form said throttling element.

19. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 14, wherein:

said control unit controls said throttling element to one of continuously increase and decrease the flow of gas to the test end over said period;

said valve connects the other of said pressure conduit and said suction conduit to the environment.

20. (Previously Presented) A system in accordance with claim 14, wherein:

said control unit controls said throttling element to vary the flow along a substantially sinusoidal pressure curve.

21. (Currently Amended) A system in accordance with claim 15, wherein:

~~a testing head is connected to said test end of said line section, said testing head being connectable to the breathing mask for detecting leakage;~~

said throttling element is arranged in said valve;

said valve has a valve element defining a flow channel, said valve element being rotatable to selectively connect said flow channel to said one of said pressure conduit and

said suction conduit, said valve element also being rotatable to vary a cross section of the flow through said valve and form said throttling element;

10       said valve connects the other of said pressure conduit and said suction conduit to the environment;

      said control unit controls said throttling element to vary the flow along a substantially sinusoidal pressure curve.

22. (Canceled).